



Profile of Country Educational System - Burundi

Burundi operates on the 6-4-3-4 system:

Primary School:	6 years
Junior Secondary School:	4 years
Senior Secondary School:	3 years
University Bachelor's degree:	4 years

Language: Principal language of instruction is French. Burundi has only one African language, Kirundi, which is studied through secondary school. Studies in English as a second language start in primary school in grade 1.

On completion of the sixth grade, students must sit for a national test in order to obtain a "Certificat d'Etudes Primaires" (Primary School Leaving Certificate) and to continue on to secondary school in the public system. Those that have higher percentage test results continue to public high schools while those with low percentages attend communal colleges (the percentage is based upon the average overall test results). After completion of high school at the communal college, with good results, students can continue further studies at state teacher's colleges.

Note: in the 1970's and 1980's the number of primary school students who passed the national test was approximately 25-35%. At present, with more schools available, the percentage has risen to 45-50%. Since 2005 primary school fees have been free of charge to all Burundian nationals.

High school system is divided into two sections:

- Junior high school: years 7, 6 5, and 4 (equivalent to grades 7, 8, 9, and 10) are general studies for all students. At the end of the fourth year an orientation test is taken to determine which section the student would specialize in for the last three years of study:
- Senior high school: years 3, 2, and 1 (equivalent to grades 11, 12, and 13) are broken down into three areas of study:
 - I. Scientific A: major in mathematics, physics
 - Scientific B: major in mathematics, physics, biology, and chemistry
 - II. Literary: arts, languages
 - III. Economy

After completion of senior high school, the student must pass another test, Diplome d'Etat or State Diploma, to have access to university and to receive a high school leaving diploma.

If the student passes the test he/she will have access to a small scholarship that includes lodging and meals at the state university.

After 4th year in junior high school, if the student does not pass the orientation test the student may opt to attend state technical schools for disciplines such as agronomy, nursing, accounting, electricity, and mechanics:

- Two years technical school = diploma A3 with access to the workforce.
- Three to four years technical school = diploma A2 which gives access to the state university.

In primary and secondary schools the percentage system is used in grading work:

90-100%:	Excellent
80-89%:	La plus grande distinction
70-79%:	Grande distinction
60-69%:	Distinction
50-59%:	Satisfaction
0-50%:	Fail

University Education:

The Burundian state university “University of Burundi” is recognized by UNESCO. This is the only public university in the country.

Faculties are: Economics, Law, Medicine, Biology, Agronomy, Applied Science, Teaching, Arts, Geography, and Physical Education and Sports.

The first 2 years of study comprise the Candidature;

After 4 years of university studies the student receives a Bachelor’s degree, *License*;

After 5 years of study the student receives an Engineer’s degree.

After 7 years of study the student receives a *Docteur en Medecine*. For doctors to specialize they must leave Burundi to study in another country.

At the university level marks are graded out of 20 points. Ten points is a pass although 12 points is an acceptable pass.

At the present time, both state and most private universities of Burundi do not offer graduate studies except for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Burundi, and master's degrees in business administration and leadership/management at Light University.

Private school system

The government strongly supports private schools as the public system is unable to meet the needs of the student population. Numerous private schools both primary and secondary have opened their doors in recent years in Bujumbura and in the interior of the country. The average school fees vary from \$20 to \$58 per trimester in primary school and \$30 to \$75 per trimester in high school.

The Belgian and French schools of Bujumbura school fees vary from \$440 per trimester in primary school and \$550 per trimester in secondary school.

In the past eight years there has been a proliferation of private universities:

Light University	Bujumbura province
Hope Africa University	Bujumbura province
Université Sagesse d’Afrique	Bujumbura province
University of Lake Tanganyika	Bujumbura province
University Martin Luther King	Bujumbura province
Great Lakes University	Bururi province
University of Ngozi	Ngozi province
University of Mwaro	Mwaro province

EducationUSA Advising Center

The Advising Center, which opened in 2008, is located in the Bujumbura English Language Center adjacent to the U.S. Embassy.

Educational Advisor: Barbara Sunstrum SunstrumB@state.gov 257-22-207-229

Center hours: Wednesday afternoons from 14h00 to 17h00

Tests available: TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language, 3 times a year for the paper based test.